

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting  
October 24, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Matthew M. Toolan, Chairman  
Christopher J. Gerstel, Vice Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member  
David C. DiCicco, Member  
Michelle S. Geddes, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

Mr. Toolan called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in Powers Hall of Needham Town Hall. He welcomed the members of the Board of Selectmen to the meeting.

- 1. Joint Public Meeting with Board of Selectmen: Rosemary Recreation Complex Update and Programming Update:** Mr. Toolan and Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chairman Matt Borrelli welcomed members of the community. Mr. Toolan gave an overview of the Rosemary Recreation Complex highlighting the 2016 key decisions and inputs, proposed timelines, pool layout, building overview, and programming ideas. His presentation can be found at Appendix A. The floor was then opened for questions.
  - A.** What will be the view from the building? What will the exterior look like in terms of trees? Why doesn't the multipurpose room have divider doors?
    - i.** The plan is to keep as many trees as possible at the site. The project will have a 1:1 or possibly a 2:1 tree replacement. Divider doors will not work with the layout due to fire code.
  - B.** What happens to the pool in the winter?
    - i.** The pool will be covered during the off seasons.
  - C.** Between Hillside and Nehoiden Streets there is access to the Rosemary Trail through a drainage area. What are the Town's rights to enter the trail?
    - i.** The trail is currently used throughout the year, and Park and Recreation is working on plans for improvements to the trail and adjacent camp property.
  - D.** The access road to the facility needs to have clear visibility for safety reasons. The bushes near the entrance make it hard to see around the corner.
  - E.** What type of roof line will the buildings have?
    - i.** Part will have a shed roof and part will have a sloped roof.
  - F.** In the past, the lake has been drained every year for pool set-up. What will the impact be if the lake is no longer drained.? What about invasive species?
    - i.** The lake will be monitored in long-term for impacts from not draining. The project is under review by the Conservation Commission who will

determine what needs to be done with invasive species within the project scope of work.

- G.** When will the dredging take place?
  - i.** The DPW is overseeing the sediment removal project. The sediment has been tested and does not hold harmful chemicals, so will not be difficult to dispose of, including possibly being able to provide to nearby farms. DPW is in early stages of permitting, but hopes to be able to start the work in late summer 2017.
- H.** Is the building all new or will part of the building be the old building?
  - i.** The two backside walls will remain part of the building. Everything else will be new construction.
- I.** Please remember the seniors when planning programs!
- J.** Could the bottom of the pool be painted a darker color to help heat the pool?
  - i.** It is not likely to meet pool code, for safety, but Park and Recreation will confirm whether it is an option or not.
- K.** I would like to suggest fitness stations along the Rosemary Trail be added. Will the building have solar panels?
  - i.** The building will be solar ready.
- L.** The facility should be named something that is all encompassing, rather than just Rosemary Pool.
- M.** Sailing would be a great addition to Rosemary. The Needham High School Sailing team likes the idea and hopes it can draw in people at a younger age to help grow their program. They also like that practices could be closer to the high school.
- N.** Are there enough bathrooms for the upper floor? Seems like a lot for downstairs but not upstairs.
  - i.** State code determines the number of bathrooms or showers. Both the upstairs and downstairs meet the required codes.
- O.** Can basketball and volleyball be played in the multi-purpose room?
  - i.** The multi-purpose room will not be a gym. The Commission will explore some form of basketball outdoors.
- P.** Are there any plans to fix-up Chambers Cove for the model yacht group?
  - i.** The trucks used for the dredging project will work out of Chambers Cove. At the conclusion of the project, the area will be restored.
- Q.** The fence around the pool should only enclose the pool and not the open space on the property.
- R.** Would residents be able to rent space in the building?
  - i.** Yes rentals would be available when the room is not in use by Park and Recreation
- S.** What happens if the construction funding doesn't pass?
  - i.** The Town would not have a public outdoor pool. The site would need to be decommissioned.
- T.** Will there be any opportunity for sponsorships?

- i. At this point in time, the BOS is not considering that for this project but might look at it for equipment and extras.
- U. Right now the pool is very affordable for families. Please keep in mind that not everyone can afford high fees for a membership, which is why they join Rosemary and not a private pool.
  - i. It is the intention of the Commission to keep prices at an affordable rate.
- V. How will kayaking and canoeing be different at Rosemary versus Charles River Canoe and Kayak?
  - i. It would be more program based as opposed to rentals. It is also located in Needham.
- W. Moving forward as we get closer to Town Meeting there should be a designated staff person for the facility, the Health Department should work with Park and Recreation to promote the project, and program options should be looked at quarterly.

Mr. Toolan asked if any members of the two boards had comments or questions. Mr. Borrelli thanked the Commission for offering the joint session, and everyone for coming and giving their input on the project.

2. **Minutes of Meeting: September 26, 2016:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The minutes of September 26, 2016 were approved unanimously.
3. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey reminded the Commission of the Conservation Commission meeting on Thursday at 8:30pm. Ms. Carey reported that the barrels and barricades for the DeFazio parking lot had been purchased but they would not be put out until the spring. Mrs. Chaston requested an update on the Mills Bathrooms. Ms. Carey reported DPW had ordered the bathrooms and they are waiting for it to come in. Everything is prepped on site and ready for the building to be installed.
4. **Program Report:** The Commission read the written report. Mr. Toolan suggested getting the staff from Pollard and High Rock involved in a silly contest of sorts for a TGIF Night event.
5. **Action Items**
  - A. **Booster Club Christmas Tree Sales:** The Commission reviewed the request from Needham High School Booster Club to hold the annual Booster Club Christmas Tree Sale November 19 through December 22, 2016. Ms. Carey will follow up with the group about removing their trailer after the event. Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve Needham High School Booster Club's request for Claxton Quarry area on November 19-December 22, 2016 for the Booster Club

Christmas Tree Sale. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Ms. Geddes would like the Commission to look at running a Thanksgiving 5k next year. Items on the agenda from the October 17, 2016 will be discussed at the next meeting. Mrs. Chaston would like Ms. Carey to give an overview of the NRPA conference she attended.

**7. Adjournment:** Mr. Gerstel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP  
Assistant Director